

Travel Briefs

If State Pays for Lodging, State Rates Apply

Please remember that only travelers whose lodging is paid for by the State of Utah are eligible to use our negotiated in-state lodging rates.

Hotel personnel will verify the travelers' status by asking to see state ID. Travelers who are not state employees (such as board members or consultants) must have a letter on agency letterhead verifying their eligibility to use state rates. Otherwise, the hotel may charge a higher rate. The letter should include the travelers' names and explain that because the State is paying for their travel expenses, they are eligible to use the State of Utah lodging rate.



Delta Is the Latest to Cut Flights Because of War



Delta is the latest airline to reduce the number of its daily flights "in response to declining passenger demand due to military action in Iraq." Delta's cuts will mean offering fewer domestic flights in some markets and suspending transatlantic flights to some destinations. American, United, and Northwest have also reduced the number of flights they offer.

If you hold reservations on any of these airlines, we encourage you to check the airline's Web site the night before or the day of your departure to confirm that the flight is still scheduled. Below are Web addresses for these airlines:

American Airlines..... www.aa.com
Delta Airlines..... www.delta.com
Northwest..... www.nwa.com
United Airlines..... www.ual.com

Emerald Club Members Choose Their Own Cars

If you are a member of National Car Rental's Emerald Club, you can now bypass the reservation counter, no matter what class of vehicle you are renting. With this new Emerald Reserve Service, when you arrive at the car rental location you will bypass the counter, go directly to the vehicle lot, choose any car of the class reserved, and drive away.



Membership in the Emerald Club is free to State of Utah employees who travel on state business. Follow the link on our Web site at www.finance.utah.gov/travel/rentalcars.htm to National's on-line sign-up form.

For details of the Emerald Reserve Service and a list of more than 50 airport locations where it is available, go to www.nationalcar.com/reserve.

Reserve, Cancel Cars Through State Travel

Please remember that employees who travel on state business are **required to reserve and cancel car rentals through the State Travel Office.**

Also be sure to note that Enterprise Rent-A-Car should be used only for **in-state** travel. Travelers may use Alamo Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental for both in-state and out-of-state travel.



DOT Approves Delta, Northwest, Continental Alliance

Delta, Continental, and Northwest Airlines have received permission from the Department of Transportation to proceed with a marketing agreement on the condition that each carrier continues to independently price, schedule, and make all other competitive determinations. The Justice Department said, “This alliance agreement, as conditioned, has the potential to lower fares and improve service for passengers in many markets throughout the country.”



The alliance of the three airlines will mean seamless service to thousands of new markets, more low-priced seat inventory, increased frequency of flights, and better time-of-day coverage. It will also allow travelers to choose one frequent flyer program to earn miles when flying on any of the three carriers.

The Delta-Northwest-Continental deal will be the biggest airline alliance yet, carrying 35 percent of U.S. air traffic daily.

Remember New Hotel Names

Several Utah hotels have changed names in the last few years, and we find that some travelers are still confused about where specific hotels are located. Use the list below to help you keep track of the new hotel names.



Now

Formerly

Red Lion Hotel 161 W. 600 South, Salt Lake City	West Coast, Olympus, Cavanaugh
Sheraton 150 W. 500 South, Salt Lake City	Hilton
Hilton 255 S. West Temple, Salt Lake City	Doubletree, Red Lion
Wyndham 215 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City	Doubletree
Crystal Inn 1450 S. Hilton Drive, St. George	Four Points Sheraton
Crystal Inn 1575 W. 200 North, Cedar City	Holiday Inn

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Earn Delta SkyMiles for Using Kiosk Check-In



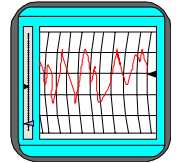
Delta SkyMiles members will earn a one-time bonus of 500 miles if they use a self-service kiosk for the first time between now and May 15. For each additional kiosk check-in, you will earn a bonus of 100 miles, up to a maximum total of 1,000 bonus miles. Delta has more than 400 kiosks currently in 81 U.S. airports, including at the Salt Lake International Airport.

Travelers who hold Delta e-tickets for domestic flights can use Delta's self-service kiosks to check in, get boarding passes for originating and connecting flights, check baggage, or change seat assignments.

Study Finds Travel Agents Beat Internet Fares

According to a recent study by Topaz International, itineraries booked through a corporate travel agency averaged \$135 less than the same itineraries booked on the Internet sites, saving corporations 23% in airfare costs.

Topaz, an airfare auditing, benchmarking, and statistical information firm, compared over 12,000 agency-booked itineraries with various travel sites including Orbitz, Expedia, Travelocity, and carrier-specific sites during the fourth quarter of 2002.



List of Caterers Is Updated

Caterers in the Richfield area are now included in the list posted on our Web site at www.finance.utah.gov/travel/caterers.htm. The list includes caterers who have previously worked with agencies to provide food for group events at the state's per diem rates.



If you have questions about booking a caterer for a group event, contact Nicole Naylor at nnaylor@utah.gov or 801-538-3109. ✈

Contact State Travel Office Personnel:

Mary Marsden

801-538-3357

marymarsden@utah.gov

Lynette Saccomanno

801-538-3351

lsaccomanno@utah.gov

Colleen Clark

801-538-3743

colleenclark@utah.gov

Nicole Naylor

801-538-3109

nnaylor@utah.gov

Angie Mackelprang

801-538-3359

amackelprang@utah.gov

Tami Nelson

801-538-3352

taminelson@utah.gov

Dot Gortcinsky

801-538-3358

dgortcinsky@utah.gov

Diann Donoviel

801-538-3103

ddonoviel@utah.gov

